

COMMENTS

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SPECIAL ISSUE



I was impressed with the special issue of Airman magazine about the 60th anniversary of the Air Force [September 2007]. I do have one comment: There was only one picture of a KC-135 Stratotanker, on Page 39, and it was only the tail and boom! I have been connected with the Air Force since August 1964, on active duty, as a military spouse and now as a Department of Defense civilian. My husband was a navigator on KC-97s [Stratofreighter/Stratotanker] and KC-135 Stratotankers until he went into reconnaissance, so I am a bit prejudiced. I think you do a terrific job in your magazine and I will subscribe at home when I retire to keep up on all the happenings. Please keep up the good work.

Blanchella K.L. Casey
Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Congratulations on a great publication. "The Air Force at 60" special issue is terrific. Only one slight error. You printed the picture of the HH-3 on Pages 26 and 27 backwards. I flew Jolly Greens in Southeast Asia and although my memory is not what it used to be, I know the door and aerial refueling probe belong on the other side. Keep up the great work — all of your publications are outstanding.

Retired Col. Joe Panza
Executive Director,
Air University Foundation
Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Thanks. You did a superb job on the magazine [September 2007]. What quality; best to date.

Master Sgt. Rudy Garcia
Sacramento, Calif.

While reading your magazine about the 60th anniversary of our nation's Air Force, I noticed an error. You listed retired Col.

Eileen Collins became the first woman astronaut in July of 1991. This is incorrect. Sally Ride was the first woman astronaut in 1983. However, Colonel Collins was the first female pilot for the shuttle, as well as the first female commander of a space shuttle mission.

Senior Airman Aaron Pohl
314th Communications Squadron
Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

Great work. The Airman magazine special issue is wonderful and a great recruiting and historical publication. Thanks for the great publication. Your succinct 60-year history pictorial is accurate as well as fun to just peruse.

Ron Barrett
Retired Air Force
navigator-bombardier

I have a couple of comments about the [September 2007] Airman magazine. First, I really like the landscape layout. That sends a message that "this is special." Really nice. Second, the page layouts and choosing of the important aspects of the eras, were well thought out. My only complaint: The helicopter [Pages 26 and 27] is an HH-3 Jolly Green Giant, not an HH-53C Super Jolly Green Giant. And the image appears to be flipped. But it's good stuff. You folks still have the very best magazine of all of the services. Thanks for the quality reading.

Mark T. Voorhis, GS-12
Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

DISAPPOINTING QUOTE



I found the story "A Medal is Born" [Fall 2007] particularly interesting. I enjoy learning the history of how our medals and awards come to be. However, I am disappointed with a quote appearing in the article regarding deploying personnel who aren't directly engaged in combat with the enemy. I deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, from June to September 2004, and can assure you while we were "behind the fence," we weren't merely "eating meals and going to bed every night," as stated in the article. We, too, were fighting the same battle from within the confines of the installation. The day I arrived, several Soldiers died outside the base exchange in a rocket attack. On Sept. 11, 2004 — during an intense mortar attack — a security forces Airman inside the wire was severely injured and nearly died. I am sure the families of the individuals who were lost, and the family of the security forces Airman, would be equally disappointed with the comment concerning those who deploy behind the fence. It does not matter whether someone is inside or outside the wire. In the end, it takes the total force to win the war.

Master Sgt. Paul Wilkerson
Little Rock, Ark.

IN HINDSIGHT

I am deployed to Southwest Asia and as I was looking at the Airman's Creed poster that came with the magazine [Fall 2007 Airman]. I noticed the M-4 rifle the Airman is holding in the picture doesn't have a rear sight. The weapon has the front sight post but no rear sight or any type of optic. As an eight-year NCO and a combat arms instructor I take the picture as an insult. If the Air Force is going to publish a poster for all Airman and all the other services to see, at least get the weapon right. The basic set up with the M-



4 is the back up iron sight with the aim point M-68 — although some squadrons have the aim point instead of the M-68. With many Airman doing Army missions now, and working hand-in-hand with all other services, having a poster up with a weapon that is not operational is not giving the Air Force any credit.

Staff Sgt. Shawn E. Hardesty
Southwest Asia

Editor's note: The photo we used for the Airman's Creed poster was one the photographer shot at a stateside exercise, not in a war zone. The weapon is for training purposes. However, we turned the original photo into a photo illustration, and didn't label it as such. We should have done that. Good catch.

OCTOBER ISSUE

Great fall issue! Great stories.

Staff Sgt. Austin M. May
Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras



I was in the Air Force from 1971 to 1979 and worked with heating systems. I want to thank you for sending me Airman via e-mail. I love the articles [Fall 2007]. I may be a civilian now, but I'm 100 percent Air Force at heart. Keep up the good work. I look forward to each issue. Thanks.

Former Staff Sgt. Daniel A. Pruden
Air Force, 1971 to 1979

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AF Blues



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